RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 24th July, 1985/
2 Sravana, 1907 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Opening of Development Centres for Women in Delhi University Colleges

*21. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: †

Will the Minister of SOCIAL AND WOMEN'S WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme for opening of development centres for women in various colleges under the Delhi University;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme; and

(c) what are the names of the colleges where such centres have been opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) to (c) The statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The Ministry has decided to open Women's Development Centres in 20 Colleges of Delhi University for the academic year 1985-86 as per list of colleges enclosed. (*See* below) The scheme envisages using students and teachers as a catalyst for creating social awareness and bringing about attitudinal changes in society. These institutions would also bridge the gap between the academic institutions and the community by taking up various programmes in the country.

List of Women Development Centres

1. Janaki Devi Mahavidyalay
2. Jesus & Marry College
3. Daulat Ram College
4. Mata Sundri College
5. Maitreyee College
6. Bharati Mahila College
7. Gargi College
8. Institute of Home Economics
9. Lady Irwin College
10. Lakshmibai College
11. Kalindi College
12. Miranda House
13. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee College
14. I. P. College
15. Kamla Nehru College
16. St. Stephen's College
17. Kirori Mal College
18. Venkateshwara College
19. Bhagat Singh College
20. Lady Shri Ram College.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Sir, the hon. Minister of Social Welfare is not here at the moment, but I am sure the hon. Minister also must have read in the newspapers that no less a person than the Prime Minister of India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, while inaugurating the International Conference on the Decade of Women came out with a candid observation—I will read out, because it will be accurate:

> "We are still living in male dominated society so much so that this domination has become a vested interest."

Now, Sir, these are not mere words but reflect the true condition of women. It is also a commitment made by the statement that these institutions would also bridge the gap between academic institutions and the community. Some concrete steps

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Maimoona Sultan.

have to be taken to slow down this oppression against women. In this context, may I know whether any concrete steps have been taken by the Government to meet the popular aspirations of women about relaxation in age of the women seeking employment by ten years in the case of rural women and five years in the case of urban women? Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you one more supplementary. You have exceeded two minutes. Please sit down.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: The Member is correct in saying that in this decade the Prime Minister and the Government of India also are very keen that women should be given a proper share in all fields of activities. No doubt, constitutional guarantee is there, but that is not enough. What is more important is that economic independence is the most important tool for getting equality for women, but that alone is also not the sole factor. The important factor is that social awareness has to be created in the society and with this purpose on experimental basis, a pilot project has been undertaken in 20 colleges of Delhi University with an idea to train them and to create social awareness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you have forgotten one point. The hon. Member wanted to know whether you are giving any age relaxation to rural and urban women for employment.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Up till now, there is no such thing age relaxation has not been given.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: I will first complete my first supplementary...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: I am asking the second supplementary. The hon. Minister has also considered the economic growth as very necessary. The Prime Minister was fully aware of the position of women. The hon. Minister has answered that no relaxation in age is given. I would like to know whether any reservation has been made in regard to women as to the admission in medical colleges, engineering colleges and the new courses that are being started for the technological development of the country such as computer courses. If not, why is there this delay. As far as awareness is concerned, there is enough awareness on this point. Has the Government given any special instructions to the financial institutions and public undertakings that more and more women should be employed in these institutions? If you don't take these measures, they shall not be corelated with the progress and that is really the spirit behind the Prime Minister's statement.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: So far no such instructions have been given for reservation for the ladies in medical colleges and other professional colleges.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Half the population is that of ladies.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: The fact is that no instructions have been given about reservation. Secondly, so far as the areas in the rural sector are concerned, some correspondence has taken place and the State Governments have been told that in all the IRDP programmes 20 per cent of the women should be given preference in giving money for raising their standard.

PROF. B. RAMA CHANDRA RAO: Sir, I would like to congratulate the Government, particularly the Social and Women Welfare Department, for creating these 20 women centres. I do hope that his scheme will be made a success. My question is very

simple. The object was to create social awareness and to bring about attitudinal changes and this can be brought about by undertaking certain laudable projects. In this connection, I would like to ask whether these centres will take up adult education programmes for women because educating the women will be educating the family and whether these centres will take care of destitute children plenty of whom you see everywhere and try to rehabilitate them. I would also like to know whether they will take active part in initiating consumer movements...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not relevant to the question.

PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: One more point. Will they curb eve-teasing of the girls in various colleges and schools?

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: This is at the experimental stage. It has been started in 20 colleges of Delhi. They have been asked to study and to make research. They have got a special objective. Their functions as envisaged are as following: (1) Promotion, development and dissemination of knowledge regarding women's role in the present social context; (2) Developing programmes for creating social awareness and promotion of attitudinal changes; (3) Counselling and guidance; (4) To act as a bridge between the academic community and the section of society; (5) To undertake studies, research and data collection of various programmes and problems concerning women; and (6) to organise employment oriented short-term training courses for women. These are the objectives for these development centres.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister when it was decided to open these development centres. The aims have been spelt out. You have also mentioned that our rights remain enshrined in the Constitution. Keeping that in mind how have we brought out the blue-print? I think the whole statement is silent about it. The scheme has been worked out. In part (b) of the question it has been asked: What are the details thereof? Where are these centres to be located? How are you going to find out the model villages or model areas or model regions where you are going to locate them? Hence I would like to say that it is incomplete. The schemes have not been spelt out. All these things have to be sorted out. Otherwise it will remain on the anvil and we will suffer as we have been suffering during the decades. What are the group schemes which have been spelt out and what are the areas which have actually been pinpointed? Where are these centres to be located?

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: As I told you earlier, this is a pilot programme at an experimental stage. At the moment, it has been started by the Ministry. In fact, there are no such plans to start it in various parts of India. So far as...

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Even in Delhi.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: In Delhi, there are a large number of programmes and they have been asked to study and find out. And whatever suggestions you make, we will certainly look into them It is very nice of you to make those suggestions.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA Sir, in the last Non-aligned Women's Conference, a suggestion was made that some sort of intermediary agency be set up to help the Government to ensure women's literacy. I would like to know whether the Government is taking into consideration the suggestions of the Non-aligned Women's Conference. For example, the Rajasthan University is looking after the literacy work and their students and staff are going from place to place. In a similar way I would like to know whether the Delhi students and the staff will undertake the work of going around Delhi in the rural areas carrying out the work because the Governmental agencies are too

much bureaucratic and the voluntary organisations suffer from resources. Therefore, the question of this intermediary agency comes into the forefront.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: I think, you are correct in saying that the Government agencies were not enough. They alone cannot do it. This work is gigantic. That is why, very recently, on the 1st of July, the Prime Minister, under the Ministry of Social Welfare called a meeting of voluntary agencies for women. Voluntary agencies of women all over India were called and they were consulted. For a whole day, they had a seminar and their suggestions are there. A large number of suggestions have been made which this Ministry will certainly like to implement wherever it is practicable And the Prime Minister is also very much keen that social voluntary agencies must be associated in all their activities whether it is in rural areas or urban areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next Question—Shri Raoof Valiullah.

Proposed Hajira Shipyard

*22. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission working group on Hajira Shipyard Project has submitted its report;

(b) whether the Project is proposed to be included in the Seventh Plan; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The Working Group on Ship Building and Ship Repair Industry, set up by Planning Commission for the 7th Plan, has proposed the creation of a New Shipyard without reference to any specific site.

(b) and (c) The 7th Plan proposals are yet to be finalised.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Sir, the decision to set up a shipyard project at Hajira was taken by the Government way back in 1975-76 as Hajira was then considered to be the best site for the shipyard. Sir, unfortunately, due to financial constraints, in the Sixth Plan the project was kept in abeyance. Sir, the country now is in dire need of more tonnage in shipping, and keeping this in view the former Union Finance Minister had categorically written to the Members of Parliament from Gujarat that a special working group has been set up by the Planning Commission on Hajira shipyard project, Sir, now the Minister has in his reply said that the Working Group has proposed the creation of a new shipyard without any specific reference to any specific site. Sir, will the Minister be pleased to state that while determining the site of the proposed shipyard project what the criteria will be and whether the Working Group has referred to any specific site or sites in the report that it has submitted?

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI: Sir, I do agree with the hon. Member that he is very well informed as far as this project is concerned for establishing new shipyards. Hajira was one of the sites which were agreed to earlier. But, as he has already said, because of the financial constraints, in the Sixth Plan this project could not be taken up. And, Sir, in the Seventh Plan, I am afraid the financial constraints are all the more severe. And as far as the working group is concerned, I am not aware of any working group by the Finance Ministry. But I am aware of the working group which has been set up by the Planning Commission for the ship-building and ship repair industry and they have indicated the need and feasibility of one more shipyard to be established. They have not indicated any site. Sir, the first thing is that if the Planning Commission agrees to the establishment of a new shipyard and provides finances for